

— Occurrence of two exotic decapods, —



New information on the occurrence of two alien decapod crustaceans, *Macrobrachium nipponense* and *Procambarus virginalis*, was summarized for Ukraine. The invasive potential of both species was estimated in the context of local environmental and socio-economic issues. Their history as non-native species is marked by the early use of alien decapods as a natural resource by local residents. Both intentional and unintentional introductions occurred for *M. nipponense*, while the ornamental trade was an important source of non-native *P. virginalis*. New records of *M. nipponense* and *P. virginalis* from open freshwater habitats in the Odesa and Kharkiv provinces suggest continuing expansion of these decapods. We conducted a molecular phylogenetic analysis of COI sequences, which confirmed morphological identifications of invasive *M. nipponense*. This reinforces the presumed pathway of this species, including its pathway from China to south-western Ukraine. *Procambarus fallax* was found to be paraphyletic in relation to *P. virginalis*, which was probably caused by analyzing only one mitochondrial gene, which could be impacted by the recent emergence of the latter species.

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Obtenir le document : EDP Sciences

Mots clés : Decapoda, Ukraine, invasive species, Décapode, Ukraine, espèce envahissante

Thème (issu du Text Mining) : FAUNE, MILIEU NATUREL

Date : 2020-10-26

Format : text/xml

Source : <https://doi.org/10.1051/kmae/2020032>

Langue : Anglais

Télécharger les documents : <https://www.kmae-journal.org/10.1051/kmae/2020032/pdf>

Permalien : <https://www.documentation.eauetbiodiversite.fr/notice/occurrence-of-two-exotic-decapods0>

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